



Country Mayors Association of NEW SOUTH WALES

Chairperson: Cr Ken Keith OAM
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MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022 YORK AND BASS SUITES, CLUB YORK, SYDNEY

The meeting opened at 8.31 a.m.

1. ATTENDANCE:

Armidale Regional Council, Mayor, Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor
Armidale Regional Council, Mr James Roncon, General Manager
Bathurst Regional Council, Cr Robert Taylor, Mayor
Bega Valley Shire Council, Cr Russell Fitzpatrick, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Cr Steve Allan, Mayor
Bellingen Shire Council, Ms Liz Jeremy, General Manager
Blayney Shire Council, Cr Scott Ferguson, Mayor
Blayney Shire Council, Ms Rebecca Ryan, General Manager
Cabonne Shire Council, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor
Cabonne Shire Council, Mr Brad Burns, General Manager
Coolamon Shire Council, Cr David McCann, Mayor
Coolamon Shire Council, Mr Tony Donoghue, General Manager
Cowra Shire Council, Cr Bill West, Mayor
Cowra Shire Council, Mr Paul Devery, General Manager
Dubbo Regional Council, Cr Mathew Dickerson, Mayor
Eurobodalla Shire Council, Cr Mat Hatcher, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Cr Phyllis Miller, Mayor
Forbes Shire Council, Mr Steve Loane, General Manager
Griffith City Council, Cr John Doug Curran, Mayor
Griffith City Council, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager
Gunnedah Shire Council, Cr Jamie Chaffey, Mayor
Hilltops Council, Cr Margaret Roles, Mayor
Inverell Shire Council, Cr Paul Harmon, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor
Kiama Municipal Council, Ms Jane Stroud, General Manager
Kyogle Council, Cr Kylie Thomas, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor
Lachlan Shire Council, Mr John Shillito, Acting General Manager
Leeton Shire Council, Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor

Leeton Shire Council, Ms Jackie Kruger, General Manager
Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Doug Hawkins, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Cr Greg Verdon, Mayor
Lockhart Shire Council, Mr Peter Veneris, General Manager
Mid-Western/Mudgee Regional Council, Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor
Moree Plains Shire Council, Cr Mark Johnson, Mayor
Murray River Council, Cr Christopher Bilkey, Mayor
Murray River Council, Mr Terry Dodds, General Manager
Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Ron Campbell, Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council, Mr Stewart Todd, General Manager
Narromine Shire Council, Cr Craig Davies, Mayor
Oberon Council, Cr Mark Kellam, Mayor
Parkes Shire Council, Cr Ken Keith, Mayor
Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Cr Narelle Davis, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Cr Russell Webb, Mayor
Tamworth Regional Council, Mr Paul Bennett, General Manager
Temora Shire Council, Cr Rick Firman, Mayor
Tenterfield Shire Council, Cr Bronwyn Petrie, Mayor
Wagga Wagga City Council, Cr Dallas Tout, Mayor
Walcha Council, Cr Eric Noakes, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Cr Ambrose Doolan, Mayor
Warrumbungle Shire Council, Mr Roger Bailey, General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council, Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator
LGNSW, Cr Darriea Turley, President
LGNSW, Mr Scott Phillips, CEO
OLG, Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director

Apologies:

As submitted

Special Guests:

Cr Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW
Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, LGNSW
Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director, OLG
CR Linda Scott, President, ALGA
The Hon Sam Faraway MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
Mr Simon Hunter, Director Strategy and Innovation, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Meeting held on 5 November 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record (Forbes Shire Council / Gunnedah Shire Council).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

4. Introduction of New Mayors

New Mayors recently elected following the December 2021 Local Government elections were given the opportunity to introduce themselves

6. Cr Darriea Turley, President, LGNSW

Cr Turley said LGNSW has been working on the rate pegging determination and the Minister is to review on how it is assessed. Cr Turley provided a report on the work of LGNSW since the last meeting and on opportunities for collaboration including the MOU with Country Mayors, 2022-23 Rate Peg Submission, the Pre Budget Submission, Local Government Assets, Child Safe Standards, and collaboration on Domestic Waste Management Charges, Planning Skills Shortages, Water Funding Program, Crown Reserve Improvements, Regional Health Initiative Funding, Right to Repair, Incentives for Electrical Vehicle Fleets, Plastic Reduction, Remote Roads Upgrades, Remote Attendance at Meetings and Regional Housing Fund

7. Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, LGNSW

Councils are shocked by the decision of IPART to cap rate increases at 0.7% for the 2022/23 year. There has been a combined effort by LGNSW, JO's and professional organisations to have this reviewed. The Minister and the Office of Local Government have listened and acted. There is now an opportunity for Councils to apply to IPART to allow each council to apply for an increase in rates up to the amount of rate cap that you went to your community with in your long term financial plan.

8. Ms Ally Dench, Executive Director OLG

She is excited to be in the role at OLG which is the first port of call for emergencies and other matters affecting local government areas. There have been recent challenges caused by the floods in NSW and \$45million in payments have been made by Resilience NSW in the past week. OLG is looking at what skills and resources are needed and councils are able to connect with OLG if they think they can help. The main call at the moment is customer service staff.

The IPART decision is devastating and a shock to OLG. The Minister has heard the concerns and is looking at the methodology. Applications in accordance with IPNR closes on the 29 April and will need a resolution of Council. In respect of the Emergency Services Levy the OLG is working with Treasury, the RFS and the Department of Planning and news is expected shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.15am for the adjourned Annual General Meeting
RESOLVED (Temora Shire Council / Inverell Shire Council)

The meeting resumed at 9.27am

9. Correspondence

Outward

- (a) Registry and Accreditation forwarding changes to the CMA Constitution
- (b) Cr Mark Liebich, Mayor, Weddin Shire Council, advising Weddins application for membership was successful
- (c) Cr Ian Woodcock, Mayor, Walgett Shire Council, advising that Walgetts application for membership was successful
- (d) Mr Viv May, Interim Administrator, Wingecarribee Shire Council, advising that Wingecarribees application for membership was successful

- (e) Cr Peter Abbott, Mayor, Cobar Shire Council, advising that Cobars application for membership was successful
- (f) Mr Grant Barnes, Chief Regulatory Officer, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, thanking him for his presentation to the 5 November 2021 meeting
- (g) Mr Joseph Rahme, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, NSW Telco, thanking him for his presentation to the 5 November 2021 meeting
- (h) Cr Linda Scott, President, LGNSW, thanking her and her team for providing meeting facilities for the 5 November 2021 meeting
- (i) The Hon Matt Kean MP, Treasurer and Minister for Energy and Environment, regarding the disposal of metropolitan waste at country locations close to metropolitan areas
- (j) The Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Minister for Transport and Roads, regarding the disposal of metropolitan waste at country locations close to metropolitan areas
- (k) The Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Minister for Transport and Roads, opposing the Proposed Employment Zones Framework applying to regional areas
- (l) Ms Jo Haylen MP, Shadow Minister for Roads, seeking support for better consultation with local government in local traffic matters particularly with NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines
- (m) Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, seeking support for better consultation with local government in local traffic matters particularly with NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines
- (n) The Hon Matt Kean MP, Treasurer and Minister for Energy and Environment, requesting an urgent review into cost shifting from the State to Local Government
- (o) The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, requesting a fairer grant system for small rural councils rather than having to contribute 50% co contributions for projects
- (p) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, requesting a fairer grant system for small rural councils rather than having to contribute 50% co contributions for projects
- (q) The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier, asking for a bi partisan approach to bring mayoral and councilor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Queensland and Victorian mayoral and councilor allowances
- (r) Mr Chris Minns MP, Leader of the Opposition, asking for a bi partisan approach to bring mayoral and councilor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Queensland and Victorian mayoral and councilor allowances
- (s) Mr Robert Borsak MLC, asking for a bi partisan approach to bring mayoral and councilor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Queensland and Victorian mayoral and councilor allowances
- (t) Mr David Shoebridge MLC, asking for a bi partisan approach to bring mayoral and councilor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Queensland and Victorian mayoral and councilor allowances

- (u) Mr Mark Latham MLC, asking for a bi partisan approach to bring mayoral and councilor allowances in rural NSW to reflect a midpoint between Queensland and Victorian mayoral and councilor allowances
- (v) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, requesting that the State Government introduces the Rural Council Model as proposed under the Fit for the Future process
- (w) General Manager, Leeton Shire Council, regarding RFS Assets resolution
- (x) To the newly elected Mayors congratulating them on their election as Mayor
- (y) To the re elected Mayors congratulating them on their re election as Mayor

Incoming

- (a) The Hon Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, regarding co contribution requirements for small rural councils participation in grant programs
- (b) The Hon Michael McCormack MP, forwarding letter from the Prime Minister regarding CMA initiatives
- (c) The Hon Matt Kean MP, treasurer, Minister for Energy and the Environment, regarding the NSW Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan
- (d) The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government. regarding the term of office of Mayors elected by Councilors
- (e) Mr Brett Whitworf, Group Deputy Secretary, Planning, Delivery and Local Government, NSW Planning and Environment, regarding remuneration of mayors and councilors
- (f) The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, regarding co contributions by councils for grants

NOTED

10. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED That the financial reports for the last quarter were tabled and accepted (Kyogle Council / Liverpool Plains Shire Council)

11. Councillor Linda Scott, President, ALGA

Cr Scott gave an overview of the past 50 years of the ALGA organisation, the current structure of the association, how it has been recalibrated to underpin successful advocacy, the challenges such as reliance on grants, recurrent funding and productivity commission, the priorities of the federal election campaign and the development of materials that councils can use, and what ALGA will do, and requesting case studies from councils that ALGA can use

12. Project Funding

This item was dealt with at the November 2021 meeting.

13. Bio Diversity Offset Scheme

RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association express sincere concerns to the State Government on the impact on rural NSW and development opportunities for growth caused by the Bio Diversity Offset Scheme and the Minister for Environment and Heritage James Griffin be invited to attend a future meeting (Narromine Shire Council / Forbes Shire Council)

- 14. Treatment of RFS Assets**
RESOLVED That the Country Mayors Association writes to the NSW OLG to request a copy of any opinion (legal or accounting or other) in relation to the accounting treatment of RFS assets by NSW Councils, respectfully requesting such opinion/s be furnished by 31 March 2022 (Leeton Shire Council / Bellingen Shire Council)
- 15. The Hon Sam Farroway, MLC, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads**
The Minister has been touring northern NSW for the past week where a national disaster has been declared. As Minister for Regional Roads it was important to be there and assess needs. Response teams are in the area now. The regional and rural transport network is imperative and there has been a substantial investment by the NSW government. The Safer Roads Program and the Regional Roads Programs are very important. Work on the Raymond Terrace section of the M1 are due to start this year and the Coffs Harbour bypass will follow. The Great Western highway will open up the central west with \$4.5billion committed to the project. Mount Victoria will be bypassed. Railway maintenance is to move from Parramatta to Dubbo. The Country Bridges Program is replacing timber bridges in many council areas. The road reclassification program will take back 15,000Km of roads from councils. The second round of submissions was extended to the end of February due to COVID. The panel is to now review submissions and report to the Minister midyear
- 16. Mr Simon Hunter, Director Strategy and Innovation, NSW Department of Planning and Environment**
Smart places has six pillars Skills and Jobs, Safety and Security, Environmental Quality, Equity Accessibility and Inclusion, Health and Well Being, and collaboration and Connection. It develops outcomes for citizens and businesses by applying consistency and a place based approach. Foundations are policy standards and governance. Building good foundations demonstrates a commitment and is a process to help. The State Governments \$45million investment was launched in December 2020. Examples of projects are Envisioning in 3D, Smart Irrigation Management, Openair, Smart Regional Space and Asset A1. The next stage is to accelerate uses of technology and data and they would like to assist regional NSW
- 17. Regional Road Transfer and Road Classification**
Item was withdrawn as it was covered by the Minister
- 18. Health Forum**
RESOLVED that the CMA make representation to the Minister for Rural Health The Hon Bronnie Taylor requesting that a health forum be conducted after the release of the Upper House Enquiry, to help to develop policies and outcomes and that an invitation be extended to the Shadow Minister for Health to attend and participate (Gunnedah Shire Council / Forbes Shire Council)
- 19. Declaration of Interests**
Wingecarribee Shire Council requested that future agendas have Declaration of Interests item following the minutes which was agreed to

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon.
Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chairman Country Mayor's Association of NSW